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What is the prayer of salvation?

Question: "What is the prayer of salvation?"

Answer: Many people ask, "Is there a prayer I can pray that will guarantee my salvation?" It is important to remember that salvation is not received by reciting a prayer or uttering certain words. The Bible nowhere records a person's receiving salvation by a prayer. Saying a prayer is not the biblical way of salvation.

The biblical method of salvation is faith in Jesus Christ. [John 3:16](#) tells us, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." Salvation is gained by faith ([Ephesians 2:8](#)), by receiving Jesus as Savior ([John 1:12](#)), and by fully trusting Jesus alone ([John 14:6](#); [Acts 4:12](#)), not by reciting a prayer.

The biblical message of salvation is simple, clear, and amazing at the same time. We have all committed sin against God ([Romans 3:23](#)). Other than Jesus Christ, there is no one who has lived an entire life without sinning ([Ecclesiastes 7:20](#)). Because of our sin, we have earned judgment from God—death ([Romans 6:23](#)). Because of our sin and its deserved punishment, there is nothing we can do on our own to make ourselves right with God. As a result of His love for us, God

became a human being in the Person of Jesus Christ. Jesus lived a perfect life and always taught the truth. However, humanity rejected Jesus and put Him to death by crucifying Him. Though that horrible act killed the only truly innocent man, our salvation was obtained. Jesus died in our place. He took the burden and judgment of our sin upon Himself ([2 Corinthians 5:21](#)). Jesus was then resurrected ([1 Corinthians 15](#)), proving that His payment for sin was sufficient and that He had overcome sin and death. As a result of Jesus' sacrifice, God offers us salvation as a gift. God calls us all to repent of our sins ([Acts 17:30](#)) and have faith in Christ as the full payment of our sins ([1 John 2:2](#)). Salvation is gained by receiving the gift God offers us, not by praying a certain prayer.

Now, that does not mean prayer cannot be involved in receiving salvation. If you understand the gospel, believe it to be true, and have accepted Jesus as your salvation, it is good and appropriate to express that faith to God in prayer. Communicating with God through prayer can be a way to progress from accepting facts about Jesus to fully trusting in Him as Savior. Prayer can be connected to the act of placing your faith in Jesus alone for salvation.

Again, though, it is crucially important that you do not base your salvation on having said a prayer. Reciting a prayer cannot save you! If you want to receive the salvation that is available through Jesus, place your faith in Him. Fully trust His death as the sufficient sacrifice for your sins. Completely rely on Him alone as your Savior. That is the biblical method of salvation. If you have received Jesus as your Savior, by all means, say a prayer to God. Tell God how thankful you are for Jesus. Offer praise to God for His love and sacrifice. Thank Jesus for dying for your sins and providing salvation for you. That is the biblical connection between salvation and prayer.

If you have received Jesus as your Savior because of what you have read here today, please click on the "I have accepted Christ today" button below.

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